

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15- 18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claims 5 and 14, respectively, and claims 5 and 14 have been cancelled.

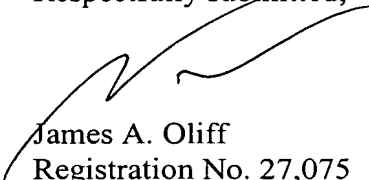
Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 14.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Nakatani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,679,052, has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb
Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 24, 2007
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--